



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

INFORMATIONAL LETTER

TRANSMITTAL: 00 OMM/INF-02

TO: **Commissioners of
Social Services**

DIVISION: Office of
Medicaid
Management

DATE: June 30, 2000

SUBJECT: Child Health Plus/Medicaid Transition Issues

**SUGGESTED
DISTRIBUTION:** Medicaid Staff

CONTACT PERSON: Medicaid Local District Liaison:
Upstate: (518)474-9130
New York City: (212)268-6855

ATTACHMENTS: Pending Medicaid Application/Notice to Health Plan
(not available on-line)

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
00 OMM/ ADM-2			PL 105-33 Public Health		

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to update you regarding recent developments in the Department's Facilitated Enrollment initiative. As you are aware, this project is intended to enroll uninsured children into either the Child Health Plus (CHPlus) Program or the Medicaid Program, depending upon household income, and to facilitate eligibility for WIC, by means of the revised Growing Up Healthy application (DOH-4133). Families will complete the DOH-4133 with the assistance of community-based and health plan facilitators under contract with the Department, and will be referred to the appropriate program based on an initial financial screening by the facilitator.

Training for the facilitators and for the 34 lead organizations which employ them has been conducted by the Department, in conjunction with the Childrens' Defense Fund, the Statewide Youth Advocacy, and the Health Plan Association. To receive permission to begin their enrollment activities, the lead organizations must have approved written protocols with the local district(s) and must advise the Department of the locations and hours during which the facilitators will be available. The Department is informing local districts by both phone and letter when their lead organizations are given permission to begin.

In addition to new enrollments, facilitators will be engaged in the transition of Medicaid-eligible children from CHPlus to Medicaid. This process, which is required by our Title XXI State Plan, is described in more detail in 00 OMM/ADM-2, "Facilitated Enrollment of Children into Medicaid, Child Health Plus and WIC." CHPlus insurers have been advised that transition will begin for children who are scheduled for their yearly CHPlus recertification on or after October 1, 2000. In July, insurers will begin to contact families with children who appear Medicaid eligible, i.e., who have **gross** income up to 120% FPL for children ages 6 through 18, 160% FPL for children ages one through five, and 222% FPL for infants up to age one. They will be asked to document current income, and if current income falls within these parameters, the family will be instructed to apply for Medicaid prior to the cut-off date for recertification.

Effective July 1, 2000, new applicants who submit applications directly to a CHPlus insurer and who appear Medicaid eligible will be enrolled in CHPlus on a **temporary** basis, and will be instructed to apply for Medicaid through a facilitator within 45 days. **For both new enrollments and transition children, if a Medicaid application has been submitted, CHPlus enrollment will continue until the final Medicaid determination is made.** If the family applies through a facilitator, the facilitator will notify the insurer that the Medicaid application has been filed. However, some families may bring the Growing Up Healthy application directly to the social services district. In these situations, it is necessary for districts to notify

Date: June 30, 2000

Trans. No. 00 OMM/INF-02

Page No.3

insurers that an application has been filed. The attachment to this INF has been developed for this purpose. At the time a Medicaid application is filed, the attached form must be completed by the local district and returned to the appropriate CHPlus insurer. If the family brings in a Growing Up Healthy application that bears the name, address and logo of a CHPlus enroller, the form should be sent to that insurer. If a family does not present a Growing Up Healthy application, but indicates they have been referred by a CHPlus insurer, districts should have the family complete and sign the Growing Up Healthy application and forward the attached form to the insurer named by the family as the one that referred them.

Kathryn Kuhmerker
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Medicaid Management